being developed and maintained by BRO. As far as the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) works are concerned DONER sponsors these roads and bulk of the work is confined to construction of permanent bridges.

The overall condition of roads under the charge of BRO in Assam is satisfactory. However, due to unusually heavy monsoons this year, National Highway-53 and certain BTC roads have been damaged. Cases have been forwarded to concerned agencies for providing funds for restoration of roads in the region.

The BRO generally completes all works on time. Certain BTC road projects were, however, delayed due to a substantial change in the scope of work during execution.

Occupation of agricultural land by army along Indo-Pak Border

1321. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large chunk of agricultural land all along Indo-Pak Border have been occupied by Army for operational reasons during various wars;

(b) if so, the area of land under the possession of Army at present;

(c) whether there is any proposal for handing over such land to their owners; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An area of 2390.27 acreas of land is still in possession of the Army at present.

(c) and (d) Out of 2390.27 acres, an area of 164.460 acres of land is under mines and can be handed over after de-mining.